

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. is one of the largest television broadcasting companies in the country. Sinclair owns and operates, programs, or provides sales services to 62 television stations in 39 markets. Sinclair's television group reaches approximately 24% of all U.S. television households.

SBG corporate has decided to use their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary," via public airwaves, in the final weeks before voters go to the polls to decide who will be president of the United States of America for the next four years. From SBG's private campaign contributions, to which they are entitled, it is clear that SBG favors a Bush victory.

I have watched substantial portions of "Stolen Honor." The film offers a selective, one-sided, and inflammatory interpretation of Kerry's activism and the consequences of Kerry's activism, making John Kerry responsible for lengthening POW imprisonments, for increasing POW casualties, for Americans spitting on veterans who had returned home, and for the way soldiers were depicted in movies like Apocalypse Now and Platoon. The film is intent on casting shame on John Kerry.

Given the film's content, SBG's plan to air "Stolen Honor" is an attempt to have a partisan influence on America's voters, timing the broadcast to maximize influence on voters before they head to the polls.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell has said that he has not seen the film but that no one should "look to us [the FCC] to block the airing of the program." This implies that the content of the film is immaterial, and this in turn implies that if a film to be aired weeks before a presidential election is designed to have a partisan influence on voters, it is perfectly acceptable for a broadcast corporation to use public airwaves to air the film.

SBG uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. SBG's plan to broadcast "Stolen Honor" is not in the service of public interest but in the service of their own interest - to re-elect George W. Bush.

SBG's plan is both a violation of public interest and an egregious example of a large media corporation using their consolidated power to pursue their own interests.

The FCC should screen "Stolen Honor" in order to determine if SBG is attempting to use public airwaves to pursue their own political interests. Sinclair's actions also show why the FCC should strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.